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GERMAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT OVER EUROPE

METHODS AND ORGANIZATIONS AND NAZI CONTROLS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT
(GREECE)

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GERMAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN OCCUPIED GREECE 1/

Introduction

Information on German military government in occupied Greece is extremely limited. Most of our sources of information are interested in actual conditions and events inside Greece; they pay little attention to the exact designation of the various German agencies or to the relation of those agencies to each other. Usually our best information comes from persons who left Greece since the German occupation, but their reports, though extremely useful on other matters, are as a rule of least value for the subject under investigation here. Moreover, there are relatively few such reports for the period earlier than late summer 1942. There is, of course, much information available from the press and radio, but this rarely gives material pertaining to more than isolated aspects of the German administration.

Furthermore the amount of information varies greatly from region to region. For the Hebros region and Crete information is relatively satisfactory. Next in adequacy come Salonica and the German-held Aegean Islands. Strangely enough, for Athens and its environs information is, on the whole, quite inadequate, and for Central and Western Macedonia there is little evidence at all. Another difficulty is the fluidity of the German organization itself. It is German method to create an organizational group for a specific purpose, and hence it is dangerous to attempt to deduce the structure of a given German agency by analogy on the basis of a few instances of offices or posts within that agency.

For all the above reasons it is impossible to give anything like a really complete picture of German military government in Greece covering all areas under German control and all German activities. There is, however, sufficient evidence to give a general description of the organization of the German administration.

Fundamentally Germany has controlled all aspects of life everywhere in Greece since the occupation, for not only the Greek quisling government but also the Italians and the Bulgarians could do nothing save by German order or tacit consent. This report, however, is limited strictly to areas under direct German administration. Only incidental attention is paid to the Italians and Bulgarians, and the Greek puppet government is considered only in its relations with the German authorities.

Since the fall of Tunis, the form of Axis control in Greece has undergone increasing modification. With the progressive withdrawal of Italy from effective participation in the war, the Germans have been forced more and

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1/ This study concerns itself only with the general structure of German military government in Greece; its concrete functioning will be treated in a subsequent study.

more to take over the areas of Greece under Italian administration and to extend the sphere of Bulgarian occupation in Northern Greece. Therefore the description of German military government in Greece as given in this report does not necessarily hold good for the period after about May, 1943. Since then it is evident that great changes have taken place, but as yet evidence is not sufficient for a clear picture of the new situation to emerge.

I. The Division of Territory

A. Introduction

The German conquest made the Germans masters of all the territories belonging to the Kingdom of Greece. The German invasion of Greece began on April 6, 1941. On April 9 the Germans took Salonica, and on April 18 they passed Mt. Olympos. On April 21 the Greeks advised the British to commence evacuation, and King George abandoned Athens for Crete. On April 27 the German Army entered Athens. The Greek quisling government came into existence May 29. The German airborn attack on Crete began on May 20, and on June 1 the British withdrew from the island. All Greece was then in German hands. Except for the areas occupied by Bulgaria, the Germans remained in sole possession of the country until June 25, when they permitted the Italians to enter. 1/

B. Bulgaria

On April 21, 1941, before the capitulation of the Greeks, the Bulgarians entered Eastern Macedonia and Western Thrace. It is clear that this occupation was with the knowledge and consent of the Germans and amounted to a quid pro quo to Bulgaria for her cooperation with the Reich. The area taken by Bulgaria extended from the Strymon (Struma) River on the west up to a line just east of Alexandroupolis (Dedeagaç); it comprised most of the Greek department (nome) of Serres, the departments of Drama, Kavalla, and Rhodope, and the western portion of the department of Hebros. These territories were incorporated into Bulgaria and have been settled by Bulgarian colonists.

C. Italy

The Italians were not permitted to send occupying troops into Greece until June 25, 1941; previously the occupying authority had been the German Army. In his speech of June 10 Mussolini announced that "by agreement with the Germans almost all of Greece, including Athens, will be occupied by Italian troops." 2/ This announcement, however, was to receive a rather limited fulfillment. The policy adopted by the Germans was simple: to hold themselves the

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1/ A Communications Zone (Kuckwaertiges Heeresgebiet) is not known to have existed at any stage of the German operations or occupation. Perhaps this is because of the defects in our evidence. But it is possible that the German advance was so swift and their control over the country after the conquest so uncontested that no need arose to create such a zone.

2/ New York Times, June 11, 1941.

key strategic areas of Greece and to turn the rest over to Italy. In the north, Germany took over Central and Western Macedonia, with the important port of Salonica, and also a strip of territory along the Hebros (Maritsa) River extending along the Turkish frontier, as well as some Aegean islands. In the south, the Germans took the islands of the Saronic Gulf and the southern coast of Attica, including the Piraeus. Athens was given to the Italians, although the German Commanding General for Southern Greece maintained his headquarters there, and there were also other German offices in the city. Crete was placed under German command, and the Germans themselves administered directly three of the island's four departments. In addition, the Luftwaffe took control of nearly all the airfields of Greece, and the Germans held most of the harbors of any consequence. The remaining areas of the country were turned over to the Italians.

D. Reasons for the Division of Territory

From the above description the fundamental motivation behind the German partition of Greece with the Bulgarians and Italians becomes readily apparent. The German aim was to secure effective control over Greece with a minimum expenditure of German personnel. So long as Germany held certain key regions, it could safely abandon to the Italians the task of administering the larger part of the country. The territory given to Bulgaria was one to which the Bulgarians had long laid claim and was the bait offered that country to induce it to cooperate with the Axis. Though the territory contained rich tobacco land, it was not, as long as Turkey stayed neutral, of prime strategic importance. That it was one of the regions of Greece most infested with malaria may perhaps have influenced the German decision.

E. German Relations with Italy

In theory Greece (except for the territories incorporated into Bulgaria) was jointly administered by Germany and Italy, each of the two occupying powers being on a basis of equality with the other. Treaties and agreements were signed by the Greek quisling government on the one hand and by the Reich and Italy on the other. Like Germany, Italy had her own diplomatic and consul representatives in Greece as well as her own supreme military command, and she was permitted a share in the exploitation of the country.

From the very beginning, however, the Italians were under the German thumb. Thus the Italians were not permitted to take over the regions assigned to them for occupation until June 25, 1941, by which time the Germans had requisitioned or bought up with "occupation marks" all readily available goods. As time went on and Italian prestige sank lower and lower, German dominance became less concealed. In an order of the German South Greece Command dated January 10, 1943, concerning the surrender of radio apparatus and accessories, there is the sentence: "The possession of radios or accessories in the areas occupied by the Italian Army is likewise punishable by military law." This is a clear instance of intrusion by a German command into the Italian sphere. The ordinary method seems to have been for the German and Italian High Commands to publish

orders or decrees jointly, but there can be little doubt that these originated with the Germans. German-Italian collaboration in the administration of Greece was always more apparent than real; from the beginning the actual control of the country was firmly in German hands.

II. The Organization of German Military Government in Greece

The German Army is responsible for the administration of the occupied areas; all other agencies are of very secondary importance. Some administrative functions are discharged by the German Navy; the German Diplomatic Service, the NSDAP, and German civilians also play a role, but the Army is dominant. In this section the Army will be examined first, then the Navy, the Diplomatic Service, and, lastly, the Party.

A. The German Army

All German army units in Greece are under the Southeast (Suedost) Command, now known officially as Heeresgruppe E, which has been formed by the expansion of the Twelfth Army. The commanding officer is General of the Air Force Alexander Loehr. The Headquarters (Armee Oberkommando) were until recently near Salonica at the American College just southeast of the city. A report of early August, 1943, states that headquarters were transferred to Skoplje. General Loehr has the ultimate responsibility for the military government of Greece, and issues orders concerning the administration of the country.

The territorial organization of German military administration in Greece will first be examined, then its functional organization.

1. The Territorial Organization of German Military Administration in Greece

This analysis will begin with the large administrative Commands and proceed downwards to the local administrative units.

a. The areas of Greece under direct German military administration were grouped into three Commands, each under a general officer.

(1) Salonica Aegean Command (Befehlshaber Saloniki-Aegaeis)

Headquarters are at Salonica. Offices are in the Koniordon Building, quarters at the Mediterranean Palace Hotel. A recent report, however, states that headquarters have been moved to the old Greed H.Q., "5 Km. northwest of Avestokhori." The commanding officer is last known to have been Lieutenant General Kurt von Krenzki.

This Command includes all German-administered territory in Northern Greece and the Aegean (except Crete and the islands of the Saronic Gulf). In Northern Greece the area held by the Germans extended from the Strymon (Struma) River on the east to the Haliacmon (Vistritsa) River in Western Macedonia. The southern boundary of the Salonica-Aegean Command ran from the mouth of the Peneus

River in an approximately northwesterly direction, passing north of the towns Kozane and Kastoria (Kostour). The northern boundary coincided, at least approximately, with the former Greek-Yugoslav frontier. This area included that portion of the nome of Serres west of the Strymon River, the departments Chalcidice, Thessalonica, Kilkis, and Pella entire, and the northern portions of the departments Kozane and Florina.

The Salonica-Aegean Command also controlled the three large Aegean islands of Lemnos, Mitylene, and Chios, along with the smaller islands Agios Eustratios (Strati), south of Lemnos, and Psara, off the northwest corner of Chios. This was the former department of the Aegean Islands, exclusive of Samos. In addition the Salonica-Aegean Command held the eastern portion of the department of Hebros along the Turkish frontier. Here the boundary between the German and Bulgarian zones begins just to the east of Alexandroupolis (Dedeagac).

(2) Southern Greece Command (Befehlshaber Sudgriechenland)

The headquarters of this command are at Athens. A reliable source of early January states that at the Athenian Club on University Street there were German personnel and a sign reading BEFEHLSHABER SUDGRIECHENLAND. This is surely the offices; headquarters seem to be at the Grande Bretagne Hotel. The commanding officer is, or at any rate was until recently, a General Speidel. 1/

The area governed by the South Greece Command cannot be determined with precise accuracy, but it included the islands of the Saronic Gulf -- Aegina and Salamis -- and the south coast of Attica with Old and New Phaleron and most of Piraeus. The Germans held other points in Attica and maintained offices in Athens, but the military administration was left to the Italians. There is much less information about South Greece than about the other two Commands.

(3) Fortress Crete Command (Kommandant der Festung Kreta

Headquarters are at Canea. The commanding officer, at least until very recently, was Lieutenant General of the Air Force, Bruno Braeuer. An unconfirmed report of early

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1/ DNB, June 30, 1943. Two generals of this name appear in the Order of Battle of the German Army (MIS, April 1943, pp. 340 and 355); the first is listed as Generalmajor Dr. Hans Speidel, Chief of Staff in occupied France, and the second as General der Flieger Wilhelm Speidel, Chief of Air Mission to Rumania. It seems much more likely that the second of these is a holder of the South Greece Command. A report of late February, 1943, states that on January 17 a General Duplitz, "Governor of Southern Greece", was killed in a train collision. No such name appears in the Order of Battle.

August, 1943.states that a General Hermann became Commander of Crete. 1/

For military purposes, the entire island was under the Fortress Crete Command, but the Germans administered only the three western out of the four departments into which Crete was divided under the Greeks. The Italians held the easternmost nome of Lassithion; the remaining departments of Heracleion, Rethymnos, and Canea were in German hands.

These were the areas of Greece under the three large German administrative Commands. In fact the Germans did intrude into the Italian sphere, though until recently probably not for purposes of military government. Reports of the spring of this year attest a German Naval Captain with German troops at Melos. From a report of early July, 1943, we learn of German Commands at Volos and Larissa in Thessaly. Moreover, the Germans controlled ports outside their own areas.

The date of the establishment of the three Commands is unknown, but there is perhaps an indication. A decree of the Salonica-Aegean Command, dated March 1, 1942, announces the appearance of the "Bulletin of Decrees of the Military Governor of Salonica and the Aegean." Therein it is stated that decrees published in the "Bulletin" are "valid only in the area of" the Salonica-Aegean Command. The final clause of the decree states: "Decrees and announcements published in the 'Bulletin of the Decrees for Occupied Greek Territories' will continue to be valid in the area of the Military Governor of Salonica and the Aegean." Thus it appears that until March 1, 1942, decrees were issued which were valid for all Greek territories administered by the Germans, but that after that date decrees were issued by the individual Commands and were valid only for the area under each Command. This fact may indicate that the three Commands were formally established on, or shortly before, March 1, 1942. 2/

b. Field Commands (Feld Kommandanturen)

Two Field Commands are found in German-occupied Greece. One is Feldkommandantur (V) 808, Feldpostamt n. 30619, at Salonica, with offices at the Majestic Hotel and and quarters at the Astoria Hotel. The other, only recently attested, is in Korai Street in Athens.

The evidence is not sufficient to permit certain determination of the scope and functions of the Field

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1/ This might be Lieutenant General of the Air Forces Hermann, Order of Battle, p. 357.

2/ This is, of course, not to say that the Commander Suedost did not, after March 1, 1942, continue to issue decrees affecting the military government of Greece. The point seems to be that such decrees were implemented through the Commands, who obviously also themselves issued decrees and orders effective in their own areas.

Command, but there is reason to assume that it embraced the various high administrative offices of the Salonica-Aegean Command. A Salonica newspaper of March 4, 1943, published an official notice of the Field Command Court Martial concerning the execution of five individuals. These persons came from the Hebros district, towns of Central Macedonia, and Salonica itself. The implication of this seems to be that the competence of the Field Command Court Martial was co-extensive with the area of the Salonica-Aegean Command, and, if so, the same would hold true for the other administrative agencies of the Field Command.

There is no evidence of a Feld Kommandantur for the Fortress Crete Command.

c. District Commands (Kreiskommandanturen) 1/

These are the administrative area Commands and play a very important role in the military government of Greece.

(1) In the Salonica-Aegean Command, District Commands are indicated for Salonica, the Aegean Islands, and the Hebros district. In a Salonica newspaper of March 4, 1943, the "Kreis Kommandantur, Salonica" warns the public that gun practice will take place in the coastal areas of the district. Sources frequently mention the District Command on Mitylene, and a report speaks of it as the "Kreis Kommandantur (Aegean)," probably a representation of the German title "Kreis Kommandantur Aegaeis." This Kreis-Kommandantur was responsible for the administration of the German-held Aegean islands. The German command in the Hebros district, with headquarters at Didymoteichon (Dimotiko) in the Municipal Offices, is a Kreis Kommandantur (mid-August, 1943). It is very probable that there are a number of other District Commands in an area as large as that under the Salonica-Aegean Command, but there is no mention of them in the available sources.

In at least one instance within the Salonica-Aegean Command a District Command was disbanded. A source of mid-April, 1943, speaks of the "Kreis und Feld Kommandanturen" at Mitylene being transferred to Salonica. Another source, of May, 1943, states that the Kreis Command at Mitylene has been disbanded and that its commanding officer, with the officers of his "department" and the greater part of the Military Police have left for Salonica; the commander of the Gestapo and the men of his staff were attached to the "Provost Marshall" (i.e., the Local Commander, who opened a new office with the sign:

MIL. VERW. GRUPPE F. D. INSULABSCHNITTE.

Whether this change was part of a wider transformation of the system of military administration within the Salonica-Aegean Command, or was limited only to the Aegean Kreis Kommandantur, cannot be determined.

1/ A Kreis corresponds very roughly to a county.

(2) District Commands are unknown for the South Greece Command. This fact may be due to the serious defects of our evidence for that area, but since this was territorially the smallest of the three German Commands, limited to holding certain important keypoints near Athens, it is very possible that no Kreis Commands were created.

(3) In the Fortress Crete Command there were three District Commands corresponding to the three Greek departments under direct German administration: Canea, Rethymnos, and Herakleion.

The rank of the officers in charge of Kreis Kommandanturen is major or captain.

d. Local Commands (Ortskommandaturen) 1/

The Local Command is the smallest unit of German military government in Greece. Our sources frequently call the commanding officers "Provost Marshalls," "town majors," "town marshalls," or "town governors."

(1) In the Salonica-Aegean Command we hear of "town majors" at Florina (Lerin) and Edessa (Vodena). No local Command is known at Salonica, but perhaps due to insufficient evidence. Local Commands are in the Aegean Kreis Kommandantur at Lemnos, Chios, and Mitylene. In the Hebros Area Command Local Commands are known to be at Orestias, Anthaia (Seinlar), and Marasia, and at some or all of the following: Kastanies (Cerek Koy), Dikaia, Phylakion (Simenli), Zone (Cavus), Pythion (Kuleli Burgas), Souphlion, Pherrai (Vira), and Anossia.

(2) In the South Greece Command there is a Local Command at Athens, located, according to a source of April, 1943, at 4 Korai Street. A source of January, 1943 mentions a "German Provost Marshall" at Eleusis, and a report of March, 1943 gives the address of the office of the "Provost Marshall" at Old Phaleron: 7 Amphitrite Street. The German Command at Piraeus is very probably also a Local Command.

(3) For the Fortress Crete Command Local Commands exist at Canea and Palaiochora in the Canea District Command.

The officers in charge of the Local Commands are usually of the rank of lieutenant.

2. The Functional Organization of German Military Administration in Greece

There is no comprehensive evidence for the functional organization of German military government in Greece. The one document used, a Military Telephone Directory for Canae in Crete, dates from about March, 1943. This document is not a formal description of the German organization, but it does list the component parts of the various offices. The different administrative agencies as

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1/ No Stadtkommandanturen are known in Greece.

given in the document will be considered and then compared with evidence from other German-occupied regions of Greece.

a. The various administrative sections (Gruppen) of the Staff of the Fortress Crete Command seem to be the equivalent of Feldkommandantur (V) 808 of the Salonica-Aegean Command.

(1) Section Ic. The Section is under a major, with apparently, a captain as second in command.

First is listed Ic Abw (ehr), a captain, followed by the enigmatic parenthesis: (Ic Abwehr: Siehe Abw. Offz). This appears to be a special counter-espionage officer for the Section. Then appears Press (Presse) under a Lieutenant, followed by Military Morale (Wehrbetreuung), also under a Lieutenant. After the Registry and Card-Index Office (Kartenstelle) there is Ic PI (Prop/aganda/ under a first lieutenant, followed by a Propaganda Troop (Prop/aganda/Zueg)

It is evident that Section Ic is by no means entirely devoted to affairs of military government. Military morale is, of course, limited to the German troops. But the other entries, -- counter-espionage, the press officer, the propaganda platoon -- are primarily, if not exclusively, connected with military government. The activities of the Press Officer and the Propaganda Officer could be concerned with the Greek population as well as the German troops and the public at home. In Crete they would be occupied with such matters as press censorship and attempting to propagandize the natives. The importance for military government of a counter-espionage officer is obvious, although the reason for the presence of such an officer in the Ic group is not clear.

Similar agencies appear in the two other Commands. A Propaganda Staffel appears under the South Greece Command, and a Propaganda Kompanie and "Propaganda Bureau" (very probably identical) exist at Salonica, almost certainly as an agency of the Salonica-Aegean Command. A "Military Press Bureau" is known to be at Athens; none is reported from Salonica.

(2) Defense Officer of Crete (Abwehroffizier Kreta)

This officer seems to be quite independent of the Ic Section. He is a captain, but a different individual from the Ic Abwehr officer. His office is also given as the exchange for the Commander of the Secret Military Police (Geheime Feldpolizei). The Secret Military Police are then listed. The Crete Counter-Espionage Officer would be charged not only with detecting enemy activity but also that of the recalcitrant Cretans.

A Defense Officer exists at Salonica; whether or not it is for the Salonica-Aegean Command cannot be determined. None is known in the South Greece Command; but our evidence for this area is so poor that no conclusions can be drawn. Secret Military Police are known to exist for the Salonica-Aegean Command, and probably they exist also for that of South Greece (see below).

(3) Section III

This is the section for Military Justice, the Court Martial. It is composed of two Court Martial Counsellors, (Kreegsgerichtsraete), a Chancellery non-commissioned officer (Kanzlei-Unteroffizier) and two Justice Inspectors (Justiz-Inspektoren.) This group is in charge of the enforcement of German Military Law on the subject population, as well as in the German Army.

We have already encountered the Feldkommandantur Court Martial of the Salonica-Aegean Command. The newspaper Ephemeris (Istanbul) of July 17, 1943, reported that eight Greeks were executed "by order of the German Military Court of Southern Greece."

(4) Economic Section (Wirtschaftsgruppe)

This section is headed by an Office Counsellor (Amstrat) and has two inspectors (Inspektoren); one over the Apprentice Office (Amtsgruppe Lehrstelle) and the other in charge of billeting and clothing (Unterkunft). Sections for Soldiers' Pay, (Gebuehrnisse) Office Materials (Bueromaterialen), Rations (Verpflegung) are then listed. Next comes the Warehouse for Equipment and Clothing (Gerats-und Bekleidungslager), and Repair Shop. (Instandsetzungswerkstatt).

Obviously this Section is concerned with the equipment provisioning, and payment of the German troops, and is not properly an agency of military government at all. It is mentioned here because the German Army in Greece obtains a good part of its supplies, particularly food, from the country. A Cretan newspaper of the early winter of 1942 published an order of the Mayor (Demarchos) of Canea prohibiting the slaughter of animals; all animals that were forced to be slaughtered were to be sold through the field butcheries of the army of occupation. These last would seem necessarily to be connected with the Rations Department of the Economics Section.

(5) Internal Administration Section (Gruppe Innere Verwaltung)

This Section is of great importance for military government. It is under a "Chief War Administration Councellor" (Oberkriegsverwaltungsrat). Then are listed two War Administration Counsellors, the second of whom is in charge of Labor Procurement (Arbeitseinsatz) from the native population. Then comes a Crete Government Assessor. (Regierungsassessor a /uf/ - kr/eta/ who is in charge of Agriculture. (Landw/irtschaft/). There follow two Inspectors. The next official is a non-commissioned officer whose task is protection of antiquities (Kunstschutz). Thereafter two Special Leaders (Sonderfuehrer) are listed, duties not being described. An Interpreter concludes the catalogue of officials. One may note that the Internal Administration Section has liaison with the Canea District Command -- namely, a Liaison District Command, (Vermittlung Kreiskommandanture). 1/

1/ But this might mean liaison with all three District Commands on Crete.

This illuminating list, to which there are no parallels from the regions of Greece under the other two German Commands, is self-explanatory and requires little comment. The presence of the interpreter indicates the necessarily close relations with the Greek population. Protection of antiquities, given the archaeological importance of the country, is bound to exist in any area of Greece governed by the Germans. It is surely not unreasonable to conclude that services identical with, or very similar to, those performed by the Internal Administration Section of the Fortress Crete Command were present also in the Salonica-Aegean and South Greece Commands. For the former there is in fact evidence: an order regarding the blocking of sheep and goat skins, issued by the Salonica-Aegean Command on July 3, 1942, is signed: "By order of the Director of Government and Finance Department. /Signature/ War Counsellor." The "Government and Finance Department" appears to be the equivalent of the Internal Administration Group in the Fortress Crete Command. "War Counsellor" seems clearly to be a translation of Kriegsverwaltungsrat.

b. Administrative officials of the District Commands

Again the point of departure is the Canae Military Telephone Directory. The administrative agencies of the Canea District Command will first be given, and then compared with evidence from other District Commands.

(1) The Commander is a Captain, assisted by an Adjutant. Military police are then listed. There follows the section Administration (Verwaltung) under a War Administration Counsellor (Kriegsverwaltung Inspektor) with a Special Leader (Sonderfuehrer) apparently second in command. Next in the section, Labor Procurement (Arbeitseinsatz) is listed under a Special Leader; then Agriculture (Landwirtschaft) under a Government Inspector (Regierungs Inspektor). The next agency is Finance (Zahlmeisterei) under a Head Finance Officer (Oberzahlmeister), Transportation Service (Fahrdienstleitung) and the Billeting Office (Quartieramt-Billeting) are entered next. At the end of the list another Sonderfuehrer appears, but his duties are not indicated.

These are the officers specifically concerned with internal administration in the Canea District Command.

(2) Evidence for similar officials in the other Area Commands may now be considered.

The rank of officers in charge of District Commands is usually captain, as attested for the Area Commands of the Aegean (late June, 1942), of Heraklcion (mid-November, 1942,) and Hebros (reports of January and February, 1943). A report of late May, 1943, gives a major as commanding officer of the Canea District Command.

Military police are known to be in the Area Commands Rethymnos, Aegean, and Hebros.

A department of Labor Procurement is known to exist in the Rethymnos District Command. An Economics Department is mentioned by sources a number of times in the Aegean Area Command; it included at least three officers and three NCO's

(early December, 1942). A report of late June, 1942, stated that control of Mitylene's produce had passed into the hands of the Aegean District Command. An order of the Command Suedost (early spring 1943) provided that "all future contracts between the German Military and other parties for the construction of wooden huts must first be approved by the Military Finance Officer."

There are certain agencies attested for other Area Commands which do not appear in the Canae Directory. In the Rethymnos District Command we find a Defense Officer and a second lieutenant (March, 1943); a Security Department is mentioned for the Aegean Area Command as well as a censor (reports of early 1943) and a "local propaganda officer" (February, 1943). A "press censor" is reported in the Herakleion District Command (mid-November 1943). That such agencies do not appear in the Canea Kreiskommandantur is probably due to the fact that Canea is the Headquarters for the entire Fortress Crete Command, and for such services as counter-espionage, press censorship, and propaganda could rely on the appropriate offices of the staff.

Ordinarily Courts Martial do not seem to have been attached to the District Commands, although two reports (February and March, 1943) mention a "German Court Martial" and a "President of the Court Martial" at Didymoteichon, Headquarters of the Hebros Area Command. An order of the Fortress Crete Command granting amnesty to "outlaws" directed them to report to the Area Commands within a specified period of time. A similar order is sued in Crete required all Greek officers to report each week to the District Command (early March, 1943). An order by the Mayor (Demarchos) of Canea, clearly echoing a German decree, states that offenders may either be imprisoned after court martial or "after summary decision by the local District Commandant."

It is evident, then, that the District Commands are a highly important agency for German military government.

c. We now come to the administrative functions of the Ortskommandantur, the local agencies of the German Army for military government in Greece.

The Local Commands are not known to have any technical administrative staffs of their own; for this they depend on the District Command. The Canea Local Command has a Billeting Office (Quartieramt). There is also a Billeting Office of the Athens Local Command; on February 22 and 23, 1943, billeted individuals (Hausbesitzer) were requested to exchange their requisition notices (Beschlagsnahmeplakate). 1/

A Billeting Office is reported in Salonica at Pantazides and Venizelos Streets (late May, 1943), but it is not known whether or not it is the billeting office of a Local Command.

We have only glimpses of the activities of the Local Commands as the local agencies for military government. A report of late January, 1943, discusses the rather ineffectual efforts of the "Provost Marshall" at Eleusis to recruit local

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1/ Deutsche Nachrichten in Griechenland (Athens), February 22, 1943; Kathemerine (Athens), February 23, 1943; Athens Radio, February 22 and 23, 1943.

labor. An order dated October 28, 1942, of the Sub-Commander of the Greek Gendarmerie at Orestias in the Hebros district, concerning the collection of wool, directs the Presidents of Communities (proedroi koinoteton) "to deliver the wool without fail to the German Kommandantur." A report of mid-December, 1942 states that the Commandant at Orestias had stopped issuing the Berlin Station news bulletin. Also in the Hebros District Command an amendment of December 5, 1942, to a previous German order refers to "Kommandanturen" in the exercise of their police duties." In the Piraeus Command, whose exact title is unknown but which, at least in size, is the equivalent of a Local Command we hear of curfew regulations, 1/ and the enforcement of a decree ordering the putting in readiness of air-raid shelters. 2/

At Salonica, Greek reserve officers above the rank of captain were obliged to call individually at the Kommandantur at fixed hours, and authorization to travel out of the city had to be obtained there (report of July, 1943), but whether it is the Ortskommandantur or the Kreiskommandantur cannot be determined.

B. The German Navy

In Greece, with its extraordinarily long coast line, innumerable islands, and marked dependence on seaborne traffic, the German Navy necessarily plays a role. While its importance does not compare with that of the German Army as an administrative agency, the Navy nevertheless does have functions in regard to matters closely connected with the government of occupied Greece. As in the case of the Army, we shall consider only those agencies of the German Navy which are concerned in some way with the administration of the country.

1. The commanding officer of the German Navy in occupied Greece is the Admiral of the Aegean. His headquarters are at Athens in the Greek Ministry of Marine (mid-September, 1942; early January, 1943). A report of March, 1943 places at 14 Amphitrite Street in Old Phaleron the "German Admiral of the Mediterranean." This seems clearly to be a garbled confusion with the Admiral of the Aegean and may indicate another office or the quarters of the Admiral.

A late source mentions an Aegean Naval Command with headquarters at Mudnos on the island of Lemnos, but this must be a subsidiary Command. A report of mid-January, 1943 states that at Athens on University Street in the Proia Arcade there is the sign: ADMIRAL AEGAEIS OBERWERFTSTAB. This would be the "Chief Shipyard Staff" under the German Naval Command. A report of mid-November, 1942 mentions a "Shipyard Commissioner" (Werftbeauftragter Aegaeis), a Baurat in rank.

2. Though the evidence is far from conclusive, there are indications that subordinate naval commands correspond territorially more or less with the three District Commands of the Army -- Salonica-Aegean, South Greece, and Fortress Crete.

1/ Proia (Athens), August 8, 1942; Vrathini (Athens), August 8, 1942.

2/ Deutsche Nachrichten in Griechenland (Athens), March 5, 1943.

a. At Salonica, there appears to be a Commander of Maritime Defense (Kommandant der Seeverteidigung), for a source of late April, 1943, mentions a "Service of Shipbuilding Section of Northern Greece" as being under the "C.O. of Defense from the Sea." A "Northern Greece" service would seem to imply a naval commander for that area, and a recent report states that the Naval Command on Lemnos is responsible only to the "Commander" in Salonica. There is a German Harbormaster of Mitylene, with four petty officers attached to the Port office; there are indications that Mitylene comes under the Salonica naval command.

At Salonica there is a Coastal Supervision Service or Coast Guard (Kuestenueberwachungsstelle) with offices at 1 Alexander the Great Street. An order of February 20, 1943, issued by the commanding officer of this Service, indicates that at least part of its duties was the control of traffic in Salonica harbor and its approaches. Its other duties are unknown, but it seems not unlikely that they extended to the Macedonian coasts generally. A report of late April, 1943, speaks of a Shipbuilding Service (Schiffbau) as well as Service of Harbor Construction (Hafenbau) at Salonica. An Office of Maritime Transport (Seetransportstelle) exists at Salonica, located in the new building of the Greek Customs House, where is also the office of the "German Port Commander".

b. A report of early February, 1943, reports that in New Phaleron on Giannopoulos Street, "opposite M. Roussos's Hotel," there is the sign:

URLAUBER KOMPANIE
SEE KOMMANDANT
ATTIK/ O_7A

This is as far as our knowledge of the Attica Naval Command goes. Whether the German naval services in the Piraeus and Salamis are controlled by the Attica Naval Command or directly by the Admiral Aegaeis is not known; their location, however, makes their consideration here appropriate. Ship movements in Piraeus harbor are supervised by the Seetransporthauptstelle under a Korvettenkapitan, and the German Harbormaster, also a Korvettenkapitan, controls the requisitioning of Greek lighters, tugs, and water tankers. The two permanent Port of Piraeus Organization dry docks are controlled by the German Naval Command at the Salamis Naval Arsenal, but are managed by the German Technical Staff of the Port of Piraeus. A Transocean dispatch of October 4, 1941, mentions a German Prize Court at Piraeus set up to deal with Greek vessels seized during the hostilities.

c. In Crete at Canea, the Headquarters of the Army's Fortress Crete Command, is the Commander of Maritime Defense (Kommandant der Seeverteidigung), a Kapitan zur See, assisted by an Adjutant. Under him is the Naval Harbor Construction Unit of Canea (Marine Hafenbauabteilung Chania) and a Harbormaster (Hafenkapitan). Interestingly enough, a Naval Propaganda Company (Marine Propaganda Kompanie) under a lieutenant exists. The evidence does not permit us to determine its function; possibly in addition to providing material for home consumption in Germany, it attempts to influence Greek seamen. A report of mid-August, 1942 indicates the existence of a Maritime Transport Office (Seetransportstelle) in Crete, presumably in Suda Bay. A report of early May, 1943, states that

the "German Port Authorities at Suda" issued orders on the course ships were to follow from Suda to Piraeus.

3. The local naval commands are the "Harbor Masters" or "Port Officers." These are the Naval officers in charge of Greek harbors, such as we have already encountered at Salonica, Piraeus, and Canea (i.e., Suda Bay); they exist also at Mitylene, (a Kapitan Leutnant), and Chios. At Mitylene four petty officers attached to the Port Offide have been reported (December, 1942), and, at Chios, an "Assistant Harbor Master" and three petty officers (early May, 1943). At Alexandroupolis (Dedeagac) in the Bulgarian occupied zone a German harbormaster is mentioned (early November, 1942). A report of early July, 1943 discloses Germans at Volos in the then zone of Italian occupation. Whether the German naval officer at Melos discharged the duties of a port officer is unknown.

The administrative duties of the German Navy in occupied Greece consist, then, in the supervision and control of Greek shipping, harbors, and shipyards.

C. The German Diplomatic Service

The diplomatic service in Greece is of very secondary importance. Its chief function seems to be that of liaison between the German Army and the Greek quisling government.

The "Representative Plenipotentiary for the Reich in Greece" is Dr. Paul Altenburg, who replaced Prince Erbach in the German Legation at the time of the conquest. 1/ A report of late January, 1943, mentions the visit of Franz Kniapich, A.D.C. of the Reichminister to Didymoteichon, "on commercial business." We hear also of a Military Attaché, a von Klemm, 2/ and a Naval Attaché (January 1943). A Press Attaché, Dr. Schwoerbel, was also a member of the Legation Staff. His duties included the censoring of the Athenian newspapers until late in 1942, when this function was assigned to a "Military Press Bureau" (see below). A report of late January, 1943, mentions a Herr Miebelekutsch, the Director of the Legation Wireless Service. A Chief of German propaganda in Greece, Herr Boehringer, was attached to the German Legation (report of late January, 1943); he was also "representative of the Nazi Party (report of late February, 1943, see below). In January, 1943 Dr. Herman Neubacher was appointed "Special Representative of the German Government for Economic and Financial Affairs in Greece" (see below). Eleutheron Vima (Athens) of August 13, 1942, in reporting a visit of General Tsolakoglou to Crete, mentions the "permanent Representative of the Occupation" on the island, apparently a German civil official. The German Consul in Athens immediately after the conquest was a Dr. Vogel, 3/ but he was apparently

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1/ "Greece During the Occupation," Foreign Nationalities Branch, Coordinator of Information, No. 14458, p. 36.

2/ Cf. the clandestine newspaper Megale Hellas of September 15, 1942.

3/ "Greece During the Occupation," Foreign Nationalities Branch, Coordinator of Information, No. 14458, p. 36.

superseded by General Konsul Neuhausen. The issue of Eleutheron Vima, cited above, gives a von Walfeld as German Consul on Crete; the Consulate is at Canea. There are German Consulates at Salonica as also in most other Greek cities of any importance.

The German diplomatic representatives in Greece seem to have very limited powers. Shortly after the conquest Dr. Vogel, Consul at Athens, is reported to have said openly that only the Army had any real authority and that officers had several times disregarded the advice and instructions of the Legation authorities. The truth seems to be that the German military authorities used the German diplomatic representatives as a convenient, but by no means indispensable, means of communication with the Greek quisling government. But there are numerous instances wherein the German Army dealt directly with the Greek Government without using the Legation as an intermediary (see below).

According to a report of April, 1943, the then newly created Prime Minister Rallis, accompanied by Altenburg, arrived in Salonica by air on April 10 and conferred with the "occupation authorities," i.e., the Army High Command. Both returned to Athens the same day. Thus it is apparent that Rallis obtained his instructions from the Army, not from Altenburg. There is a similar instance, reported in February, 1943. The Germans in Crete had become dissatisfied with the Greek Governor-General of Crete, Loulakes. The German Legation, therefore, "expressing the feelings of the German authorities in Crete" (i.e., the Fortress Crete Command), sent a note to the quisling government saying that present events made necessary a Governor-General in Crete of "absolute political loyalty." The Greek Government then procured Loulakes' resignation, and an enthusiastic pro-German was appointed to the post. Here again the German Legation acted as a mere go-between. German policy in Greece is fundamentally that of the Germany Army, not that of the Wilhelmstrasse.

D. The NSDAP

The Nazi Party as such does not seem to be of great importance in occupied Greece and its activities are apparently largely limited to Germans resident or stationed in Greece. There are two principal reasons for this. First, there was in Greece no minority of German origin and speech, no folk-group (Volksgruppe) in the Nazi sense, like the remnants farther north in the Balkans of Hapsburg colonization on the old Turkish marches. There are, therefore, no German racials in Greece whom the Party wishes to bring heim ins Reich. Secondly, the Party regards Greeks as racial inferiors absolutely unsuitable for Party membership.

At the time of the conquest in April, 1941, the Germans resident in the county were organized into a Landesgruppe under the Auslandsorganization.1/ The leader of the Landesgruppe at that time was Dr. Wrede, Director of the German Archaeological Institute at Athens, 1 Phidias Street, and the Athens Local Group Leader (Ortsgruppenleiter) was Party Member Leyh. Wrede is reported to have died. A report of late February, 1943 states that in connection with a plan to appoint in

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1/ Deutsches Wollen, Berlin, July 1, 1941 (quoted in National Socialism, prepared in the Special Unit of the Division of European Affairs, Department of State, Washington /1943/, pp. 467-470).

Salonica three Greek ministers with legislative powers, Boehringer, "representative of the Nazi Party and Chief of Propaganda in Greece" (see above), went to Salonica. His presence on this mission indicates that he had at least some voice in the discussion of administrative problems, whether as Chief of Propaganda or as the Party leader.

The Party certainly maintained an organization in Salonica though we have no information about it, and very possibly in other cities of Greece.

Party subsidiaries also exist in Greece, all of course limited strictly to Germans. Hitler Youth appeared on the streets of Athens to celebrate the entry of the German troops, 1/ and Athens also had a unit of the Auslandsdeutsche Frauenschaft, which held monthly meetings. 2/ Also in Athens on 20 Voulis Street, the location of the Hotel Olympos Tourist Office, there was the sign KRAFT-DURCH-FREUDE-KUNSTLERHEIM, indicating an entertainment canteen for German troops (reported early April, 1943), and at 3a Bucharest Street were German personnel and the sign DIE DEUTSCHE ARBEITS FRONT AMT LUFT-WAFFE LUFTGAUDIENSTSTELLE SUD-OST, a similar establishment for the Air Forces (same source). A Transocean dispatch of March 11, 1943, citing the DAF organ Arbeitertum, recounts the experiences of German actors forced ashore on an uninhabited island in the Aegean while on their way to give performances at a flying base on Lemnos. It seems clear that the actors' journey was under the auspices of the DAF.

The SS (Schutzstaffeln) are also in Greece. In late May, 1943, three to four SS companies were stationed in the region of Didymoteichon in the Hebros District Command. A report of mid-December, 1942 states that about 150 members of the SS organization came to Athens to reinforce the Gestapo, and a report of February, 1943 speaks of SS groups making stop checks there. In Salonica the SS played a typical role. At the beginning of February, 1943 an "SS Committee" arrived in the city from Germany, and shortly thereafter formal anti-Semitic measures were introduced (late February, 1943). Then SS troops, who reached Salonica at the end of the same month and were sent especially for the purpose, supervised the mass deportation of Jews. The Security Service (Sicherheitsdienst) is reported in Salonica (see below).

It is evident that the Nazi Party in occupied Greece has devoted its attention to German nationals, civilians, and members of the Armed Forces. The only important and characeristic achievement of the Party itself has been the liquidation of the long-established Sephardic Jewish colonies in Salonica and other towns of northern Greece. The NSDAP has not, so far as can be determined, been an important administrative agency in occupied Greece.

1/ Deutsches Wollen, Berlin, July 1, 1941 (quoted in National Socialism, prepared in the Special Unit of the Division of European Affairs, Department of State, Washington [1943], pp. 467-470).

2/ Deutsche Nachrichten in Griechenland, March 3, 1943.